



*The* LIBRARY *of* CONGRESS

GERSHWIN PRIZE  
*for* POPULAR SONG

**Paul  
& McCartney** *celebrating  
the music of*

June 1, 2010  
Coolidge Auditorium  
Thomas Jefferson



### *The Ira and Leonore Gershwin Fund*

The Ira and Leonore Gershwin Fund in the Library of Congress was established in 1992 by a bequest from Mrs. Gershwin to perpetuate the name and works of her husband, Ira, and his brother, George, and to provide support for worthy related music and literary projects.

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The Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge Foundation was established in 1925 to promote and advance chamber music through commissions, public concerts, and festivals; to purchase music manuscripts; and to support musical scholarship. With an additional gift, Mrs. Coolidge financed the construction of the Coolidge Auditorium which has become world famous for its magnificent acoustics and for the caliber of artists and ensembles who have played there.

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BEFORE THE CONCERT BEGINS, PATRONS ARE REQUESTED TO TURN OFF  
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OBJECTS THAT WOULD DISRUPT THE PERFORMANCE.

Thank you.



*Letter from the  
Librarian of Congress,  
James H. Billington*

Thank you for joining us this evening in honoring Paul McCartney, this year's recipient of the Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song and a transformative figure in the genre of popular song and, indeed, in the entire soundscape of our time. From his early years with the Beatles, to his work as a solo artist and with Wings, to his award-winning classical works, to his current *Up and Coming* tour, Paul McCartney has never stopped generating original, imaginative, music. He continually surprises and enchants us by mastering a musical style, transforming it into something new, and sharing it with the world in his concerts and recordings.



The Library of Congress has been collecting Paul McCartney's music throughout his career. Virtually every piece of his music, printed and recorded, is in the Library's collections for research now and being preserved for future generations with the best in conservation care. The Library values this music as a vibrant and essential part of our musical heritage, just as it values, collects, and preserves classical music, jazz, folk, country, blues, and traditional genres from around the world.

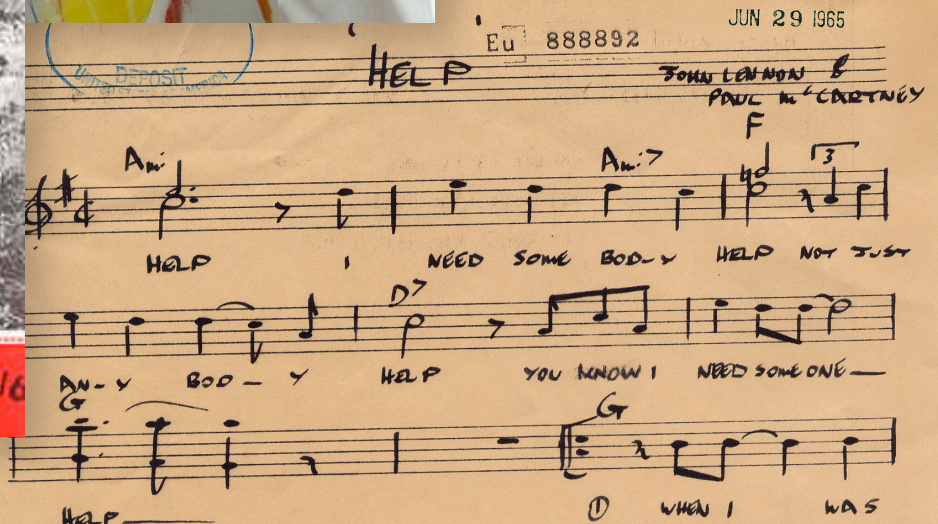
The Gershwin Prize was established to honor an artist whose creative output transcends distinctions between musical styles and idioms, brings diverse listeners together, and that lifts us up and fosters the kind of mutual understanding across all borders with the universal language of music. The Library's strategic purpose in bestowing this award is to connect directly with popular music artists whose creative works are collected here in America's oldest federal cultural institution and to celebrate the Library's unique role in preserving all forms of music for future generations.

I wish to acknowledge the friendship and generosity of the Gershwin families who have allowed the Gershwin name to be used for the Prize. Tonight many of the family members are in the audience who have helped shape the special collaboration between the Gershwin families and the Library of Congress. In making the selection for the Gershwin Prize, we turned for advice to leading members of the music and entertainment communities. I specially thank Rickey Minor, Carole Bayer Sager, Jimmy Webb, Paul Williams, and the first recipient of the Gershwin Prize, Paul Simon, for their services on this year's advisory committee.

Thank you all for being a part of this special tribute to Paul McCartney, a universally admired musician whose musical gifts have for so many years immeasurably enriched our lives.

*James H. Billington*







**Paul McCartney was born in Liverpool, England, on Jun 18 1942. He was raised in the city and educated at the Liverpool Institute. Since writing his first song at the age of 14, Paul McCartney has dreamed and dared to be different.**

In the '60s, as the writer and co-author of The Beatles' greatest songs, he changed the world of music. Legendary albums include: "Please Please Me," "Revolver," "Help!," "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" and "The White Album." McCartney has continued to push boundaries over the last 30 years, first as a solo artist, then with Wings (with albums that included "Band On The Run" and "Wings at The Speed of Sound") and following that as a solo artist again, with recent highlights including 2007's "Memory Almost Full." Most recently he received critical acclaim as "The Fireman" (a collaborative project of McCartney and producer Youth) with their 2008 "Electric Arguments" album.

Paul McCartney is also an accomplished, award-winning classical composer. His most recent classical album "Ecce Cor Meum" ("Behold My Heart") was released in September 2006 and won the 2007 Best Album Award at the Classical Brit Awards. He was awarded a special Outstanding Contribution Award at the 2008 BRIT Awards at Earls Court in London. Months later, Yale University presented him with an honorary doctorate of music. As he received his diploma, President Richard C. Levin told him, "Your songs awakened a generation, giving a fresh sound to rock 'n' roll, and rhythm and blues. We admire your musical genius and your generous support of worthy causes."

Equally renowned as a live performer as he is a songwriter, McCartney has spent much of the last

five years performing sold-out concerts to millions of people all over the world including places he had never previously visited, winning rave reviews along the way. McCartney's current "Up and Coming" tour performances began in March 2010 and are Paul's first U.S. shows since his "Summer Live '09" tour last year.

A freeman of The City of Liverpool and Lead Patron of The Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts, McCartney was appointed Fellow of The Royal College of Music in 1995 by The Prince of Wales. In 1996 he was knighted by H.M. the Queen of England for his services to music. He is also committed to a number of charities including PETA, LIPA, One Voice, The Vegetarian Society, Nordoff Robins, and Adopt-A-Minefield.



# *The* LIBRARY of CONGRESS AND THE GERSHWINS



**T**he Library of Congress is the world's preeminent body of primary-source materials for the study of the life and work of the Gershwins, providing not only biographical information and a record of the brothers' compositional processes, but also a compelling and immediate sense of their distinctive personalities. Chief in importance in the collection is the music (including orchestrations, piano-vocal scores, and sketches), lyric sheets and librettos, much of which is in the handwriting of the Gershwins. There is also a wealth of correspondence providing a firsthand view of the brothers' daily lives, creative processes, and personalities. Pictorial materials include many photographs of George, Ira, and members of their family and circle of friends, as well as paintings and drawings by both George and Ira. Legal

and financial papers, thirty-four scrapbooks, programs, posters, scores from George's music library, and scripts for radio broadcasts, all add up to an unparalleled resource for the study of the Gershwins and their milieu. The Gershwin Collection began in 1939, two years after George's death, with an exchange of letters between Ira Gershwin and Harold Spivacke, then chief of the Music Division. The first item Ira gave to the Library was George's sketch for "The Crapshooter's Song" from *Porgy and Bess* along with the promise that he would "dig up something more satisfactory." In 1953 came the manuscripts of the large-scale works, including *Rhapsody in Blue*, *An American in Paris* and the *Concerto in F* from the estate of Rose Gershwin. These were followed by many generous gifts from other family members and friends. In 1987, Ira's



widow, Leonore, donated the remaining music manuscripts and lyric sheets from her home. Until her death in 1991, she continued purchasing items for the collection, and today her generous bequest continues to support acquisitions and programs that extend the legacy of the Gershwin brothers.

In 1985, the Congressional Gold Medal was awarded posthumously to George and Ira Gershwin for their “outstanding and invaluable contributions to American music, theatre, and culture.” The medal, designed and executed by Edgar Z. Steever and Charles Y. Martin, both sculptors and engravers at the U.S. Mint, features both brothers in profile. On the back is the now famous inscription Ira wrote in the Librarian of Congress’ guest book in 1966; quoting from his Pulitzer Prize-winning show *Of Thee I Sing*, he wrote, “Shining star and inspiration, worthy of a mighty nation-and I do mean the LOC [Library of Congress].”

In commemoration of George and Ira Gershwin’s dedication to American song and culture and the



generous efforts of their families to preserve and perpetuate that heritage, the Library of Congress has named its Prize for Popular Song after these two prolific artists. The medal that is awarded to Stevie Wonder is adapted from the design of the Gershwin Congressional Gold Medal.





The Library of Congress the nation's oldest federal cultural institution and the largest library in the world, with more than 144 million items in some 460 languages on approximately 745 miles of shelves. It is the nation's storehouse of knowledge, with vast collections of books, manuscripts, maps, sound recordings, films, newspapers, prints and photographs. Increasingly these collections are being digitized and made accessible to everyone on the Library's website at [www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov). Now anyone can view Thomas Jefferson's draft of the Declaration of Independence, the papers of Abraham Lincoln, Revolutionary War maps, Civil War photographs, the first Thomas Edison films and sound recordings and millions more documents of

American history, and increasingly world history. The items themselves are housed in three buildings on Capitol Hill, the oldest being the beautiful Thomas Jefferson Building, opened in 1897.

The music collections in the Library of Congress encompass virtually all musical genres-classical, jazz, folk, gospel, blues, rock, country and hip-hop. There are original manuscripts of European masters such as Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, and Brahms, as well as those of American masters such as Irving Berlin, George and Ira Gershwin, Aaron Copland and Leonard Bernstein. There is the largest sheet music collection in the world, dating back to the earliest publishers in Europe and America and up to the present. Of utmost





importance to the study of popular music is the Library's vast collections of traditional music, including the repertoires of early blues men such as Robert Johnson and Muddy Waters, and field recordings of diverse American folk music traditions. The Library's sound recording collection spans more than 100 years of recording history, from the first cylinder recordings of the 1890s up to the most recently released albums in every musical style. These collections are now housed in the new National Audiovisual Conservation Center, a state-of-the-art preservation facility in Culpeper, Virginia, opened in 2008. Since 1925, the Library of Congress has offered free public concerts in its

500- seat Coolidge Auditorium. Recent seasons have brought in a rich diversity of performers from violinist Joshua Bell to slam champion Marc Bemuthi Joseph to Roseanne Cash and Mark O'Connor. Library commissions have brought into existence such 20th-century masterpieces as Aaron Copland's *Appalachian Spring* and Bela Bartok's *Concerto for Orchestra*.

One of the goals of establishing the Gershwin Prize is to put a spotlight on the musical treasures in the Library of Congress, especially the vast popular music collection, to encourage students, teachers, scholars, and researchers to use this free, public resource. Many are now online at [www.loc.gov/ammem/](http://www.loc.gov/ammem/) and [www.loc.gov/performingarts](http://www.loc.gov/performingarts).









*Previous*  
**GERSHWIN PRIZE  
WINNERS**  
*STEVIE WONDER &  
PAUL SIMON*







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